Toward a Moscow-Peking

By Drew Pearson

The second big question heat. which American ambassadors

is whether the U.S. retaliatory air raids on North Viet-Nam have pushed the two bitter factions of the Communist world together.



If so, could set back Pearson

one of the greatest American diplomatic triumphs of the emphasized by Mr. Johnson's visits. decade and unite Chinese reduction of 26 surplus milimanpower with Russian tary bases and a cut of 21,000 nuclear power in an unbeat-civilian defense personnel, anable threat to the peace.

know that previously Moscow ment Dec. 14 of a cut in the "psalm-singing tool of Ameritheir quarrel with Peking and pean Communist nations to Later, in April, 1964, Pres-partly to try to improve Chithe European Communist and 40 per cent respectively, the middle of this row. Only cut the same day. In May, the Mr. Johnson, Chinese attacks

getting the two nations to-more consulates in each counthey had been wrested from retaliatory raids over North Brezhnev.

tween Moscow and Peking had ation. So before Kosygin, a Chinese push for more

Secret Harmony

The diplomats obviously President overrode right wing by a similar proportion. congressional objections to Finally the Kremlin agreed

try to work out the problems ident Johnson cut back our nese-Russian relations that the American bombing raids to of Chinese-Russian friction plutonium and enriched ura-Presidium had kicked him rush back into the arms of leaders did not want to get in and Khrushchev matched this leaders began warming up to the Bulgarians and the East two men worked out an infor- against Kosygin and Brezh- clear know-how, it would They also know that, for the of having U.S. observation tone. Radio Peking began depast year, President Johnson planes shot down over Cuba. manding once again the reand Premier Khrushchev had They also agreed on a treaty turn of the Siberian maritime made amazing progress in providing for the opening of provinces on the ground that

After Khrushchev left office, the New Kremlin leaders Siberia or Viet-Nam? And they know that simul-indicated they wanted to con-

increased almost to white made his speech to the Su-room. With around 700,000,000 State Department to see what small rice-growing countries be, if any.

He got a reply which enknow considerably more than abled Kosygin to tell the Suthe American public about re-preme Soviet that Russia was cent harmony between the cutting its arms budget and Siberian-Chinese border and Kremlin and the White he had reason to believe that House. It began when the the United States was cutting

Peking Fumes

Meanwhile Peking was fuss-

So when the new Kremlin ally. nev took on the same bitter

Will all this be reversed by preme Soviet on the arms people bulging China's borto Pacific nations, meeting in the bombing raids over North budget, he had his ambassa-ders, Peking figures it must Viet-Nam? That is the big dor in Washington call at the expand its influence into the U.S. arms cuts were going to to the South or else up into the wide-open wheat-growing areas of Siberia.

marveled at the fact that the Chinese have not burst into it selling wheat to Russia in De- to Mr. Johnson's invitation, are moving South, through before this. The fact that they cember, 1963, and was further publicly issued, to exchange Viet-Nam, therefore, is a plus for Moscow. It relieves pressure on Siberia.

nounced Dec. 7, 1963, followed ing and fuming. The Chinese why the new leaders of the It is all the more reason? The American ambassadors by Khrushchev's announce had called Khrushchev a Kremlin should try to forget their old Chinese Communist

If China's vast manpower? make a combination which not even the strength of the United States could beat.

possibility stemming from our Viet-Nam, and this is one of: the imponderables the ambas taneously the animosity be-tinue this informal coopera-North Viet-Nam boils down to 1965, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc. sadors meeting in the Philip